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EV305489589US  
Express Mail Label Number

February 13, 2003  
Date of Deposit

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**IN THE APPLICATION OF:** Duan et al.      **CASE NO.:** PH-7121-DIV1  
**SERIAL NO.:** unknown      **GROUP ART UNIT:** unknown  
**FILED:** February 13, 2004      **EXAMINER:** unknown  
**FOR:** CYCLIC  $\beta$ -AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS OF  
MATRIX METALLOPROTEASES AND TNF- $\alpha$

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in conjunction with a Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/811,233 filed March 16, 2001.

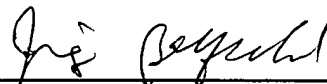
Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**In the Specification**

Please insert the following paragraph:

The present application is a divisional application of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/811,233, filed March 16, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/190,182, filed March 17, 2000, U.S. Provisional Application 60/233,373 filed, September 18, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application 60/255,539, filed December 14, 2000. The contents of each application are incorporated herein by reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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